GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1753
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
CONDITION OF ROERICH ESTATE
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of the Roerich Estate has deteriorated after its control was handed over to the Government of Karnataka; and,

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Government to improve its condition?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The Government of Karnataka acquired the Estate belonging to the Roerichs on November 21, 1996 through an enactment. Based on a petition challenging the Constitutional validity of the Act, the Hon`ble High Court of Karnataka ordered the maintenance of status quo in the matter.

With the permission of the Hon`ble Court of Karnataka, the Government of Karnataka, on December 17, 1997, shifted valuable artifacts and paintings to Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bangalore, for preservation and maintenance in their original condition.

In order to improve the condition of the Roerich Estate, the Government of Karnataka has moved the Hon`ble High Court seeking permission to clean and effect minor repairs to the buildings and to revive and prevent the plantation and trees from deterioration.